Pending cases with DCGI

1325.DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge pendency in the number of applications for various types of regulatory approvals in the office of the Drug Controller General of India, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is inordinate delay in getting clearance of the pending applications in spite of increased staff strength in the department;

(c) how many such applications under various categories of approvals are pending for more than six months to a year from the date of such applications;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the applicants are facing serious problems to register their difficulties and also meet the DCGI; and

(e) if so, the reasons for this sorry state of fairs and the measures taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no inordinate delay in processing of applications received in the office of Drug Controller General (India).However as the applications are of technical nature and are accompanied by voluminous technical data, examination is time consuming and also there is many a time deficiencies in the information furnished by the applicants.

(c) No such applications are pending on which action has not been initiated within six months to a year.

(d) At the front office of Drugs Controller (India), Senior Officers meet applicants daily for two hours to address their queries with regard to various types of regulatory approvals. If their queries / issues are not sorted out through meeting with Senior Officers, applicants have the option to meet DCG(I).

(e) Does not arise.

Adulteration of harmful substances in milk

†1326. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to completely check adulteration of milk and milk products with harmful substances and the details of achievements thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that China made synthetic milk powder is being sold across the country's market on a large scale;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to amend laws to strictly tackle these notorious activities; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. who are responsible for implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in their State/U.T. have been requested to keep a strict vigil on quality of milk specially with regard to contamination of milk. Central Government is, however, continuously monitoring the situation.

(b) and (c) No such instances have come to the notice of this Ministry.

(d) and (e) Sale of milk or milk products containing a substance not found in milk, except as provided in the PFA Rules, 1955 is prohibited. Any violation of the provision of the Act/Rules attracts legal action.

Poor quality cornea of donated eyes

1327. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maximum percentage of donated eyes are discarded due to poor quality of cornea; and

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to enforce a law for removal of eyes while performing postmortem of accidental cases to obtain quality cornea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Most of the donated eyes are utilized for corneal transplantation for optical purpose in needy population. The cornea, which could not be utilized for corneal transplantation for optical purpose due to poor quality, is utilized for therapeutic graft, lamellar graft, research and training activities etc.

There is no proposal to enforce a law for removal of eyes while performing postmortem of accidental cases to obtain quality cornea.

Loopholes in law pertaining to abortion

†1328. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are major loopholes in the present law pertaining to abortion; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to remove these loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The present law pertaining to abortion or the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act in India which came into existence in 1971 aims to regulate and ensure safe, affordable, accessible and acceptable abortion services to women who need to terminate a pregnancy upto 20 weeks of gestation on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds within a legal framework; and as such, the Act leaves little room for any major loopholes.

Clinical Establishment Bill, 2007

1329. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi